A QUALITY ROMANCE PUBLICATION

LOVE Confessions

MARCH
No.28

10c

"MIKE! MIKE! I LOVE YOU...BUT PLEASE TRY TO UNDERSTAND... HARRY NEEDS ME... LOVES ME...AND..."

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● Please enter my attached drawing in your February contest. **(PLEASE PRINT)**

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City_____ Zone____

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Occupation_____

Age_____ Phone_____

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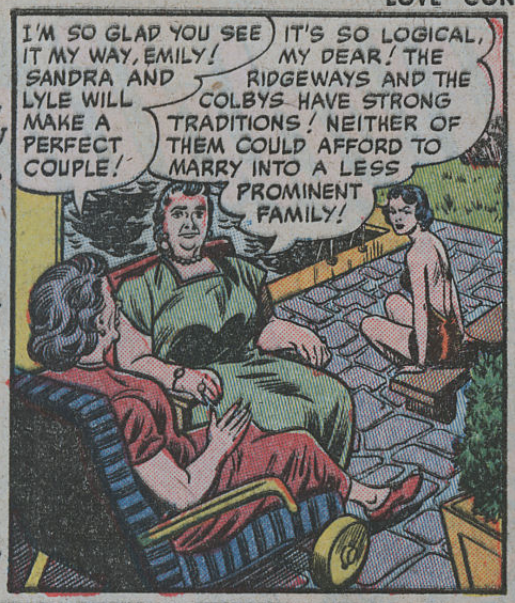
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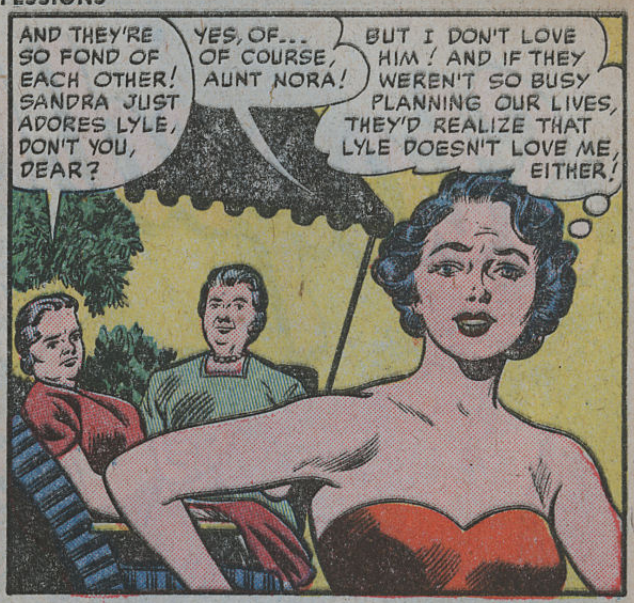
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Staged Wedding
I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO YOU, NICKY! IT'S TOO LATE NOW, MY DARLING, BUT I'LL NEVER STOP LOVING YOU!
From THE DAY MY AUNT NORA TOOK OVER MY CAREER IN SOCIETY, I COULDN'T CALL MY LIFE MY OWN! MY CLOTHES, MY FRIENDS, THE PARTIES I GAVE AND ATTENDED WERE ALL CAREFULLY ENGINEERED BY MY AUNT, WHO PLACED PRESTIGE ABOVE MY HAPPI-NESS! EVEN THE MAN I WAS TO MARRY WAS CHOSEN BY AUNT NORA! BUT THOUGH I DUTIFULLY OBEYED HER EVERY WHIM, SHE COULDN'T DICTATE TO MY HEART, AND ON THE EVE OF MY WEDDING I FOUND MYSELF SOBBING IN THE ARMS OF ANOTHER MAN!

Aunt Nora and Mrs. Ridgeway practically ruled the upper crust crowd in exclusive Ridge Heights! And when they started making plans, I knew it was hopeless to protest!



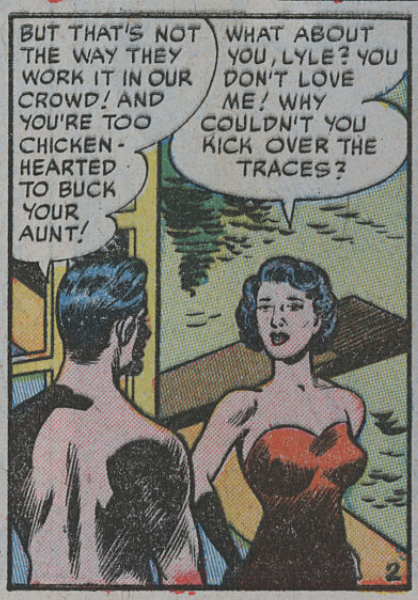




Fortunate! I didn't feel that way about it and I didn't mind telling Lyle Ridgeway!









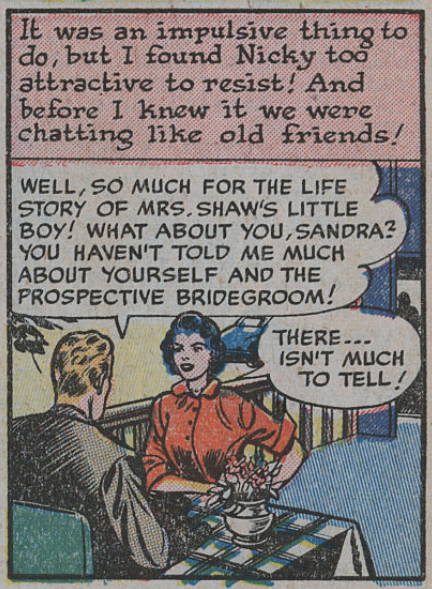

Gradually I began to see things Lyle's way!
IT WOULD BE DIFFERENT IF I WAS REALLY IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE! BUT I DON'T KNOW ANY MAN THAT MEANS MORE TO ME THAN LYLE! HE'S FAR FROM ROMANTIC, BUT AT LEAST HE'S FUN!
And soon...
SANDRA, I'M SIMPLY A WRECK! CATERERS, MUSICIANS, FLORISTS! ONLY THREE DAYS TO GO AND...
HERE! DON'T WEAR YOURSELF OUT, AUNT NORA! IT'S ONLY A WEDDING!
ONLY A WEDDING! WELL, REALLY! DO YOU REALIZE THAT EVERY SOCIETY EDITOR IN THE COUNTRY IS EXCITED ABOUT THIS AFFAIR? HOW MANY DEBUTANTES HAVE THEIR WEDDINGS PHOTOGRAPHED BY REVIEW MAGAZINE?
NOT MANY, MRS. COLBY! AND THIS SHOULD MAKE A TERRIFIC SHOT!
WHY...WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY BARGING IN HERE AND TAKING PICTURES WITHOUT PERMISSION?
BUT I'VE GOT PERMISSION! I'M NICKY SHAW, FROM REVIEW! ER..I THINK CANDID SHOTS OF BEFORE AND AFTER THE WEDDING WILL ADD PLENTY OF KICK TO OUR SPREAD!
CANDID SHOTS, INDEED! IF YOU DON'T SURRENDER THAT NEGATIVE IMMEDIATELY, YOUNG MAN, I'LL SEE TO IT THAT YOU AREN'T PERMITTED AT THE WEDDING!
I GUESS I DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE, DO I? BUT I'M ONLY DOING IT, MADAME, BECAUSE I FIND YOU IRRESISTIBLE!
YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND!
YOU...INSOLENT YOUNG PUP! GET OUT OF THIS HOUSE! GET OUT IMMEDIATELY BEFORE I HAVE YOU REMOVED!
I KNOW HE HURT YOUR PRIDE, AUNTIE! BUT IF HE'S ANNOYED HE MIGHT TAKE SOME UNFLATTERING PICTURES AT THE WEDDING!
GRACIOUS! I...I HADN'T THOUGHT OF THAT! PERHAPS YOU'D BETTER TALK TO HIM, SANDRA! TELL HIM I'M UPSET AND SEE IF YOU CAN WIN HIM OVER!
3













Nicky's eyes looked deep into mine as he spoke again, and a delicious shudder ran through me! No one had ever spoken to me as bluntly as he did, yet I was drawn to him as if by a magnet!



I must not have sounded too convincing, because as Nicky drove me home...

YOU KNOW, SANDRA, I WISH I COULD FEEL SORRY FOR YOU! BUT YOU'RE A BIG GIRL! OLD ENOUGH NOT TO LET YOURSELF BE PUSHED INTO A MERGER JUST TO CONVENIENCE A COUPLE OF BLUE BOOK BIDDIES!

BUT WHY SHOULD YOU FEEL SORRY FOR ME? I TOLD YOU I'M ---VERY HAPPY ABOUT IT!

I KNOW A GOOD WAY TO FIND OUT IF YOU'RE REALLY IN LOVE WITH THIS JOKER!

NICKY, DON'T! YOU CAN'T--- I--I'M GOING TO BE MARRIED IN THREE DAYS!

YOUR LIPS ARE SAYING, NO, SANDRA, BUT THE REST OF YOU IS SAYING YES! WHY? ARE YOU AFRAID TO DISCOVER WHAT LOVE IS LIKE? AFRAID YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GO THROUGH WITH THAT STAGED WEDDING?

I DON'T KNOW! OH, NICKY, DON'T MAKE IT WORSE! I--- I'M SO CONFUSED ALREADY!



Nicky's arms were like a vise, crushing me close to his body! A wild, tremulous feeling possessed me and I yielded my lips to his passionate kisses again and again!

IT'S CRAZY, SANDRA! IT'S MAD AND RIDICULOUS AND IMPOSSIBLE! BUT I LOVE YOU!

NICKY, OH, NICKY! HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT? WE SHOULDN'T --- WE MUSTN'T!

And as we parted...

WE---CAN'T SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN, NICKY! BUT I WON'T FORGET YOU!

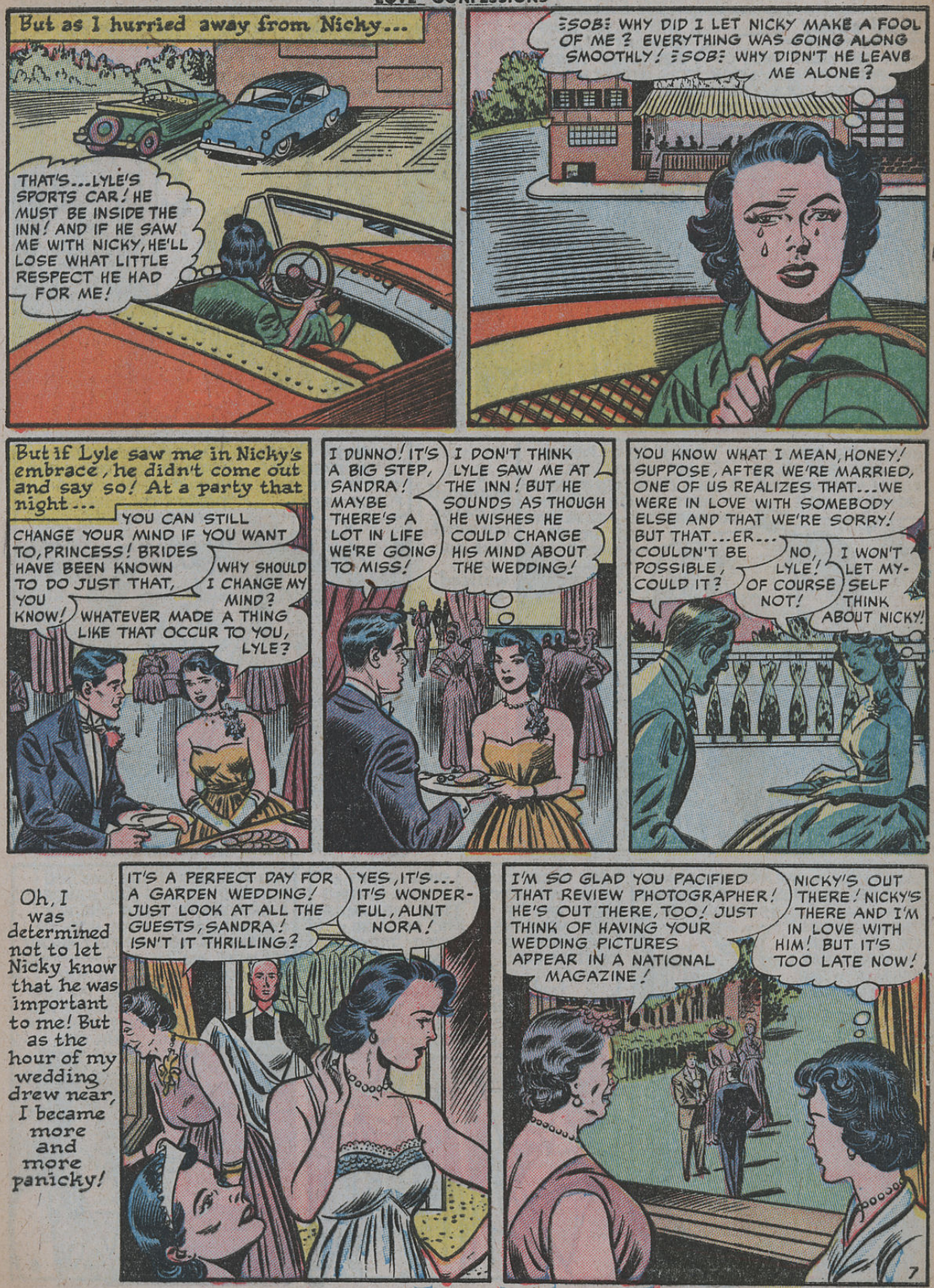
WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN, SANDRA! PROBABLY SOONER THAN YOU THINK! I'LL---CALL YOU TO-MORROW!

I went through the motions, the next day, of getting ready for the big wedding ceremony! But my heart wasn't in it!

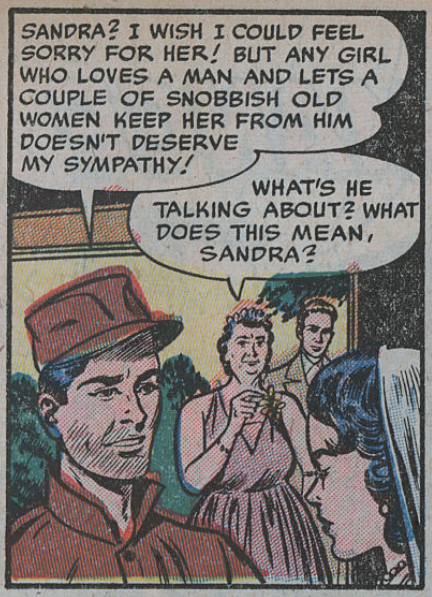
I SHOULD HATE NICKY FOR WHAT HE DID, BUT---I NEVER FELT THIS WAY BEFORE! I'M AFRAID OF WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IF HE CALLS ME, AND STILL I KEEP HOPING HE WILL!

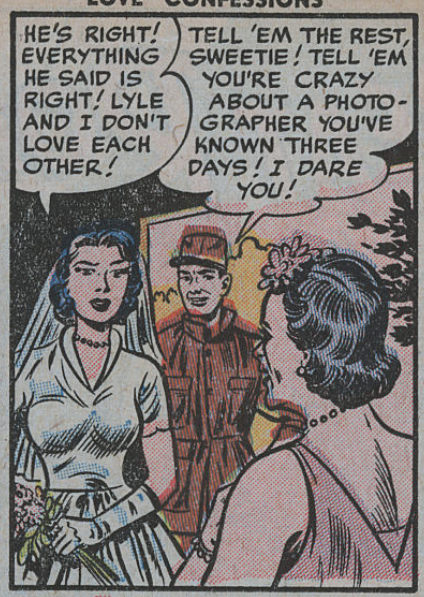
AH! MAM'SELLE WEEL BE WHAT YOU CALL ZE EXQUEESEET BRIDE!


And that afternoon...
BUT I CAN'T GET AWAY TO MEET YOU, NICKY! DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT I'M GOING TO BE MARRIED TOMORROW?
YOU WANT TO MEET ME, DON'T YOU? WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO START DOING THE THINGS YOU WANT TO INSTEAD OF WHAT'S EXPECTED OF YOU?
ALL RIGHT, NICKY! I..I'LL MEET YOU AT THE INN! BUT ONLY TO... SAY GOODBYE!
I CAN'T GET OVER HIS NERVE, WANTING A DATE WITH ME AT A TIME LIKE THIS! HE'S EITHER VERY FOND OF ME OR TERRIBLY CONCEITED!
A long background of haughty pride made me resentful of Nicky's cocky self-confidence! He was so sure of me, so convinced that I wouldn't resist him! And what troubled me most was that he was right!
I WASN'T SURE OF MYSELF LAST NIGHT! BUT JUST SEEING HIM IS ENOUGH TO CONVINCE ME THAT I LOVE HIM! I'M IN LOVE WITH A STRANGER!
SANDRA! I KNOW YOU'D BE HERE, DARLING!
YOU...YOU'RE TERRIBLY SURE OF YOURSELF, AREN'T YOU, NICKY? YOU TAKE A LOT FOR GRANTED!
I'M SURE OF ONE THING, SANDRA! YOU AREN'T IN LOVE WITH LYLE RIDGEWAY! YOU DIDN'T KNOW A KISS COULD BE THRILLING BEFORE YESTERDAY! AND YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GO THROUGH WITH THAT WEDDING TOMORROW!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I CAN'T CHANGE MY MIND NOW!
IT'S YOUR HEART THAT'S CHANGED, SANDRA! BE HONEST WITH YOURSELF! YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH ME!
OF ALL THE PRESUMPTUOUS, CONCEITED PEOPLE! MAYBE I'M NOT IN LOVE WITH LYLE, BUT DON'T THINK YOU'RE SO IRRESISTIBLE THAT YOU CAN SWEEP ME OFF MY FEET!
MAYBE I WAS WRONG ABOUT YOU! I THOUGHT YOU WANTED LOVE... NEEDED LOVE! BUT YOU'RE LIKE THE REST OF YOUR PHONY CROWD! YOU'LL MARRY A GUY YOU DON'T LOVE BECAUSE YOU'RE AFRAID TO TAKE WHAT YOU WANT OUT OF LIFE!
I DON'T HAVE TO STAND HERE AND LISTEN TO YOU! I'M SORRY I LET YOU WASTE MY TIME!
6


But as I hurried away from Nicky...
THAT'S...LYLE'S SPORTS CAR! HE MUST BE INSIDE THE INN! AND IF HE SAW ME WITH NICKY, HE'LL LOSE WHAT LITTLE RESPECT HE HAD FOR ME!
:SOB: WHY DID I LET NICKY MAKE A FOOL OF ME? EVERYTHING WAS GOING ALONG SMOOTHLY! :SOB: WHY DIDN'T HE LEAVE ME ALONE?
But if Lyle saw me in Nicky's embrace, he didn't come out and say so! At a party that night...
YOU CAN STILL CHANGE YOUR MIND IF YOU WANT TO, PRINCESS! BRIDES HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO DO JUST THAT, YOU KNOW!
WHY SHOULD I CHANGE MY MIND?
WHATEVER MADE A THING LIKE THAT OCCUR TO YOU, LYLE?
I DUNNO! IT'S A BIG STEP, SANDRA! MAYBE THERE'S A LOT IN LIFE WE'RE GOING TO MISS!
I DON'T THINK LYLE SAW ME AT THE INN! BUT HE SOUNDS AS THOUGH HE WISHES HE COULD CHANGE HIS MIND ABOUT THE WEDDING!
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN, HONEY! SUPPOSE, AFTER WE'RE MARRIED, ONE OF US REALIZES THAT...WE WERE IN LOVE WITH SOMEBODY ELSE AND THAT WE'RE SORRY! BUT THAT...ER... COULDN'T BE POSSIBLE, COULD IT?
NO, LYLE! OF COURSE NOT!
I WON'T LET MYSELF THINK ABOUT NICKY!
Oh, I was determined not to let Nicky know that he was important to me! But as the hour of my wedding drew near, I became more and more panicky!
IT'S A PERFECT DAY FOR A GARDEN WEDDING! JUST LOOK AT ALL THE GUESTS, SANDRA! ISN'T IT THRILLING?
YES, IT'S... IT'S WONDERFUL, AUNT NORA!
I'M SO GLAD YOU PACIFIED THAT REVIEW PHOTOGRAPHER! HE'S OUT THERE, TOO! JUST THINK OF HAVING YOUR WEDDING PICTURES APPEAR IN A NATIONAL MAGAZINE!
NICKY'S OUT THERE! NICKY'S THERE AND I'M IN LOVE WITH HIM! BUT IT'S TOO LATE NOW!
7


And soon!
JUST ONE MORE SHOT OF THE BRIDE, PLEASE! LOOK HAPPY, MISS COLBY! REMEMBER, THIS IS THE HAPPIEST DAY OF YOUR LIFE!
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO TORMENT ME, NICKY? I'VE GOT TO GO THROUGH WITH IT NOW! I CAN'T TURN BACK!
NO MORE PICTURES! THEY'RE GOING TO START THE WEDDING MARCH ANY MOMENT! IN FACT, I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S HOLDING THEM UP!
NORA, I'M SIMPLY FRANTIC! LYLE ISN'T HERE YET! WE CALLED HOME, BUT---HE'S NOT THERE, EITHER!
BUT THAT'S RIDICULOUS! HE...HE'S GOT TO BE HERE! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
DON'T GO TO PIECES, AUNT NORA! WE'LL WALK OVER AND PROBABLY MEET HIM ON HIS WAY! BRIDEGROOMS ARE ALWAYS LATE, AREN'T THEY?
I managed to calm my aunt, but as we walked to the Ridgeway estate which adjoined ours, something told me not to be too surprised if Lyle was gone!
WE HAVEN'T LOOKED IN THE GARAGE! THAT'S THE ONLY PLACE LEFT!
LYLE IS ECCENTRIC, I GRANT YOU, BUT WHAT WOULD HE BE DOING THERE? OH, THIS IS UNFORGIVABLE!
LYLE! LYLE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THOSE CLOTHES? THE WEDDING IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!
THESE CLOTHES? OH, YES... SURE! THEY'RE WHAT I USUALLY WEAR ON A FISHING TRIP!
SEE HERE, YOUNG MAN, WE WON'T HAVE ANY OF THIS NONSENSE! EVERYBODY'S WAITING FOR YOU!
SURE! EVERYBODY'S WAITING FOR THE LAMBS TO BE SACRIFICED! THEY'RE ALL WAITING FOR THE STAR ACT IN THIS BIG PRODUCTION YOU AND MY MOTHER HAVE STAGED!
YOU PLANNED IT THE WAY YOU PLANNED MY LIFE AND SANDRA'S! EVERYTHING'S BEEN ONE BIG EXTRAVAGANZA, WITH NOBODY ASKING US HOW WE FELT ABOUT IT! WELL, ALL OF A SUDDEN I'M SICK AND TIRED OF BEING A PUPPET!
LYLE, YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME! IF YOU WON'T THINK OF ME, THINK OF SANDRA!

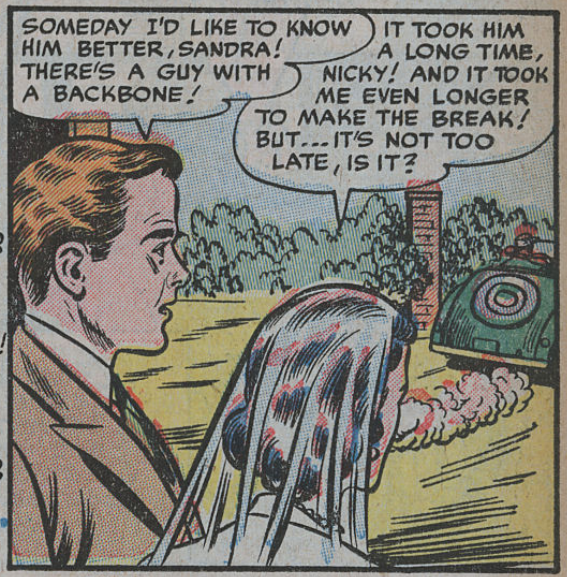


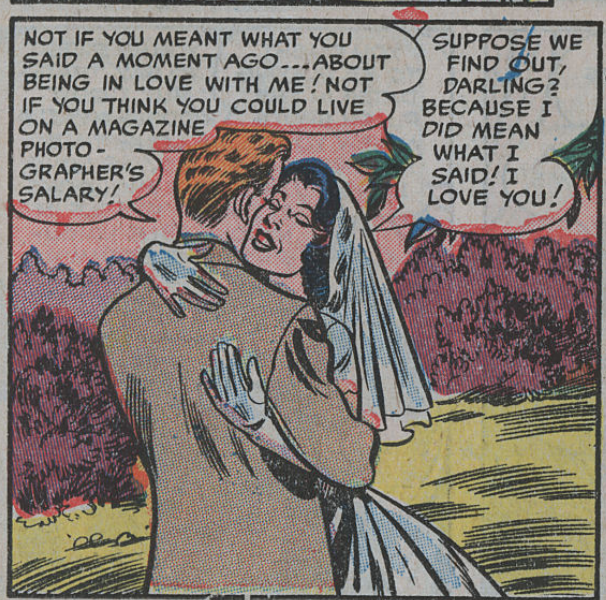






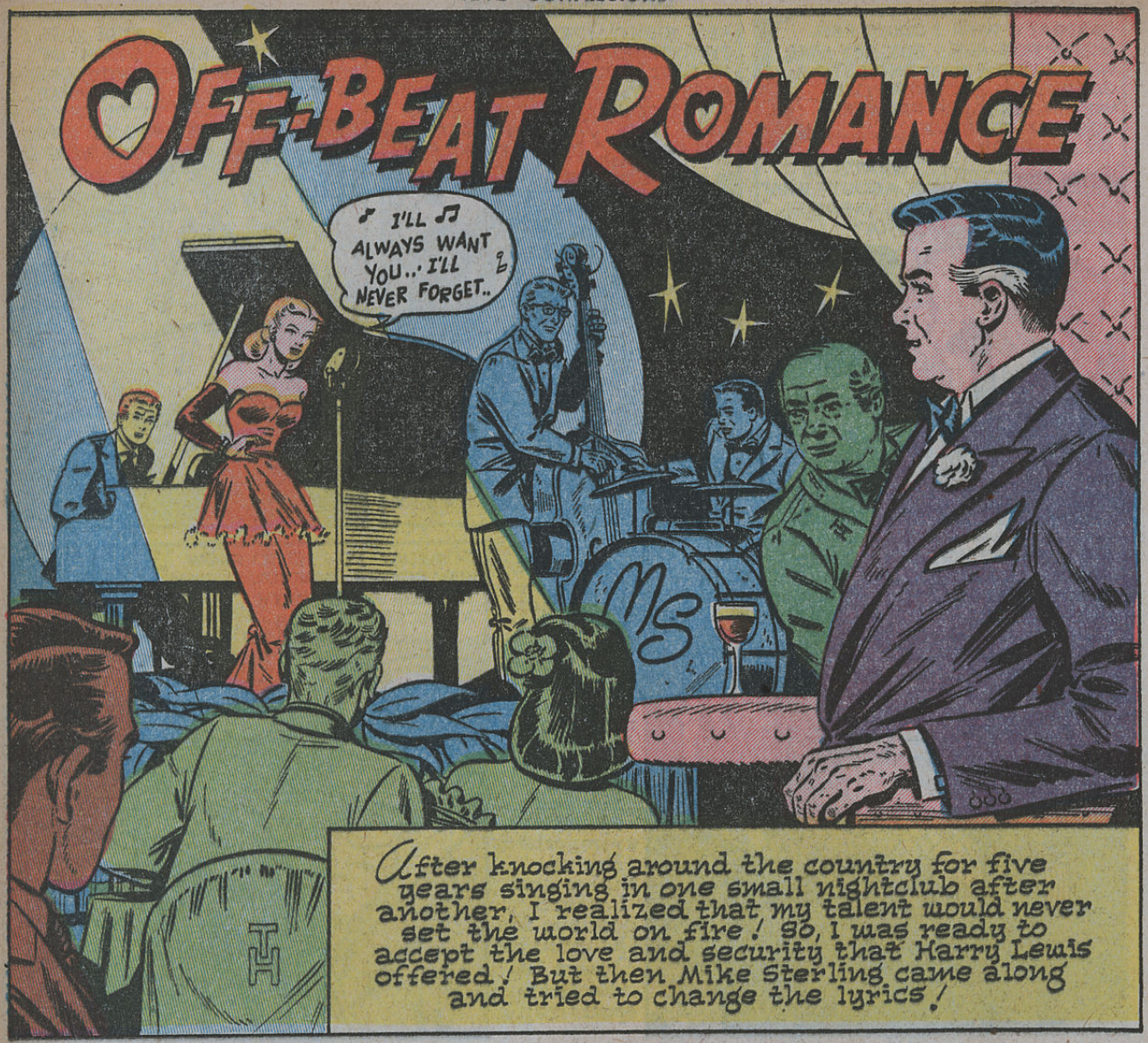
Somehow, the melodramatic scene my Aunt and Mrs. Ridgeway put on had no meaning and the wedding party that waited for me seemed unimportant! For as Nicky and I waved goodbye to the grinning figure in the little sports car...





I had come of age and thanks to Lyle, the chains of tradition had been broken! For as Nicky's lips met mine, I learned that no one is stronger than you are... if you listen to your heart!





Five years of living on coffee and hamburgers and traveling hundreds of miles on hot busses every few weeks can knock all the cockiness out of a girl! And as I finished my first night at Harry Lewis' TOP HAT, I was ready to admit that I'd never be a Broadway or Hollywood success!





GOOD



After two weeks, Harry picked up my option and signed me to another four ... and even spoke of my singing permanently at the club! He was a wonderful man to know and work for and I was happier than I'd been in years! But then Mike Sterling arrived to complicate my life!

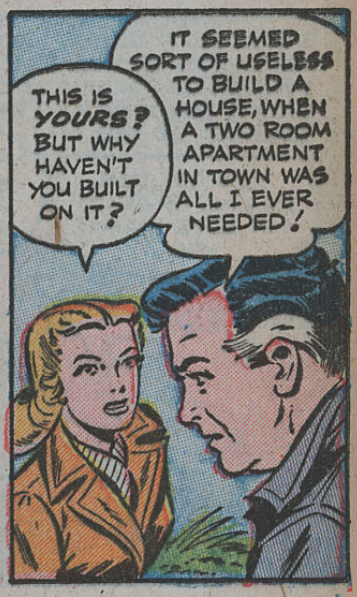






In a few days, Harry's investment began to pay off! With new gowns, dramatic lighting and Mike's terrific arrangements of my songs, the whole act took on a new glamour which had the customers arriving in large numbers! Later--one Sunday afternoon, Harry took me for a ride in the country!







Harry's meaning was unmistakably clear, and my heart did an involuntary flip-flop! Being Harry's wife had a lot to recommend it, but with a wistful sigh, he dropped the subject! The next morning, Mike called and asked me to drop by his apartment!





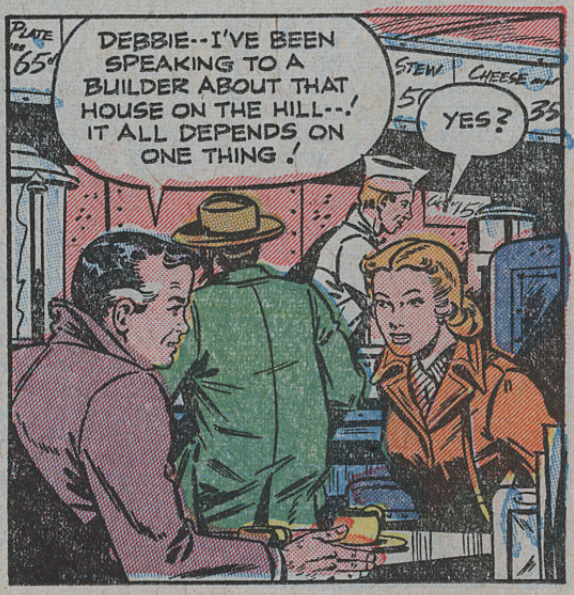
Over the weeks I had come to know and admire Mike more and more... We were much alike--but he had retained the confidence and ambition I had lost! Then, as I listened to his lilting melodies and clever lyrics, I felt a stir of hope!







I left immediately, not knowing what else to do! But I was terribly confused and unhappy! It had seemed so right and natural to be in Mike's arms--yet I was afraid! Of what, I didn't know! That night, after the show, as Harry and I stopped off for coffee!







I saw clearly that Harry and I needed one another--I, to supply the love and companionship he lacked, he to provide the security and stability I craved! But the next evening, Mike entered my dressing-room looking tense and upset!













It was all I could do to keep from running after Mike! But I felt I was doing what was best for all of us! In the following weeks, my only concern was to hide my conflict from Harry! Above all, I didn't want to hurt him!







For a few days, things went along on a fairly even keel! Then, as Mike and I rehearsed a new number, I was startled to see a flashily-dressed, scar-faced man enter Harry's office! A while later, as I passed the office door, I heard Harry's protesting voice---

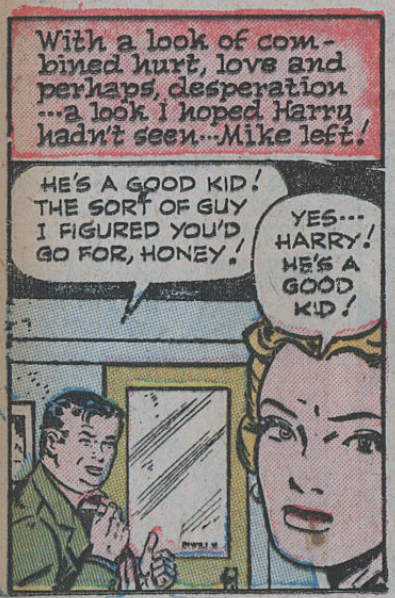




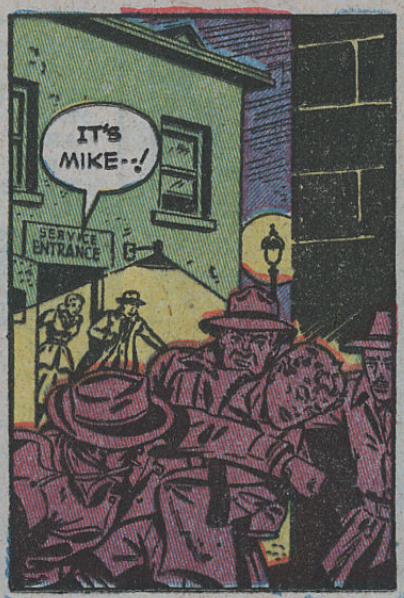








Late that evening, after the last show, Harry and I closed up the TOP HAT! As we started to leave, we heard sounds of someone being beaten! My heart told me who it was---





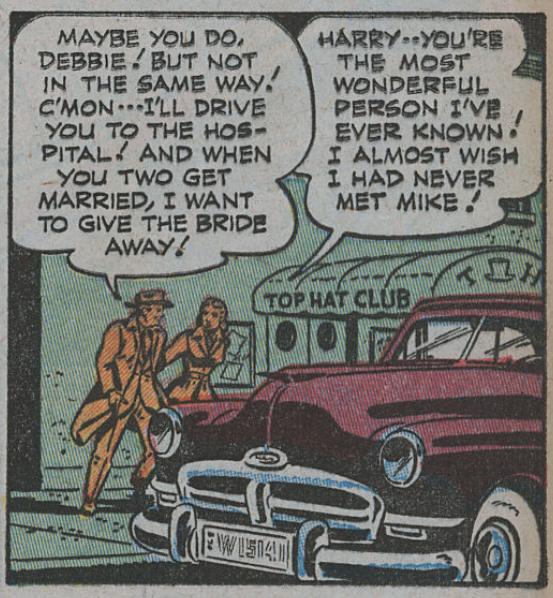






A short while later, an ambulance arrived and took Mike away! The crowd that had gathered soon disappeared! And I stood there with Harry, stunned and numb---!



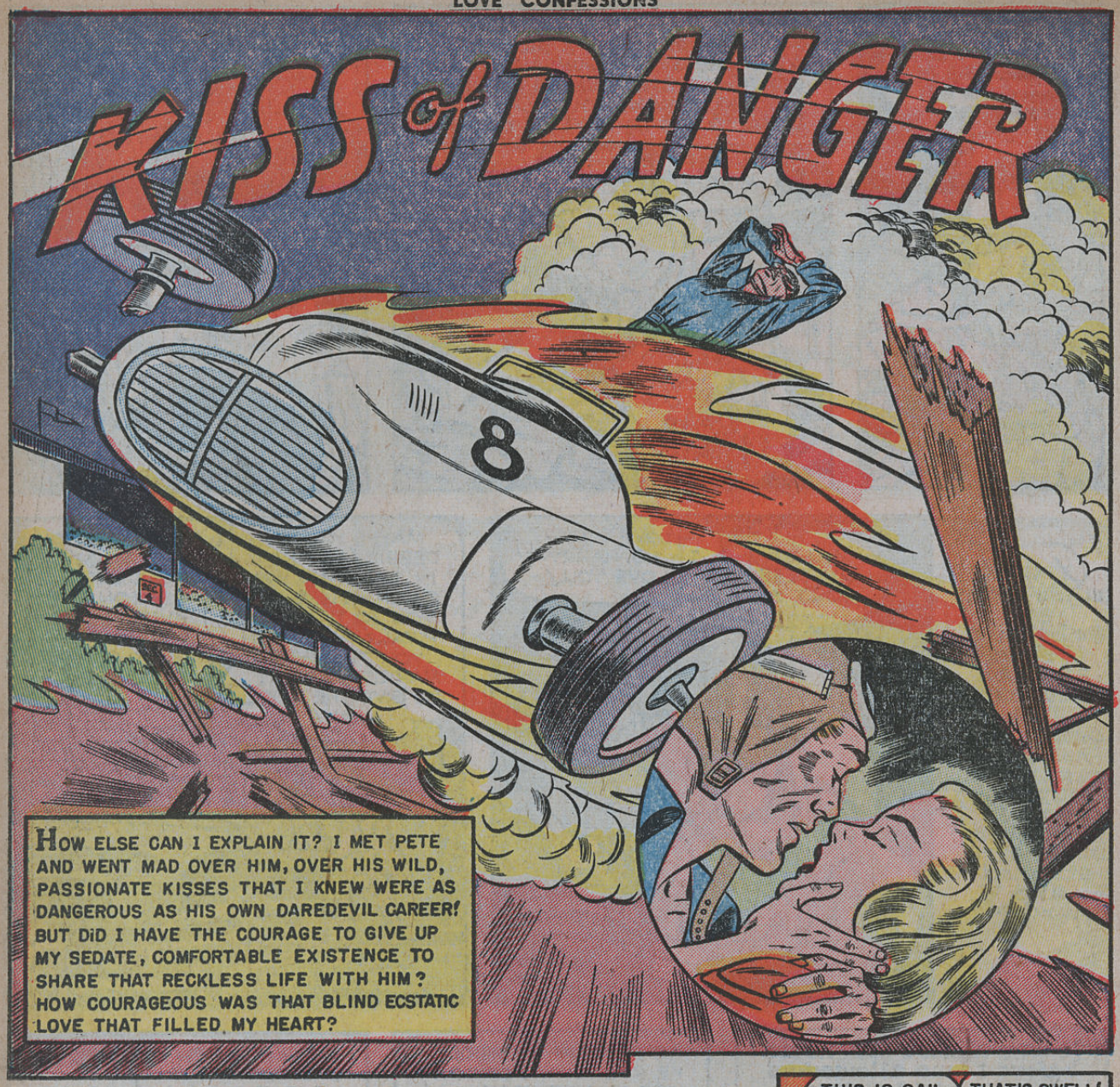




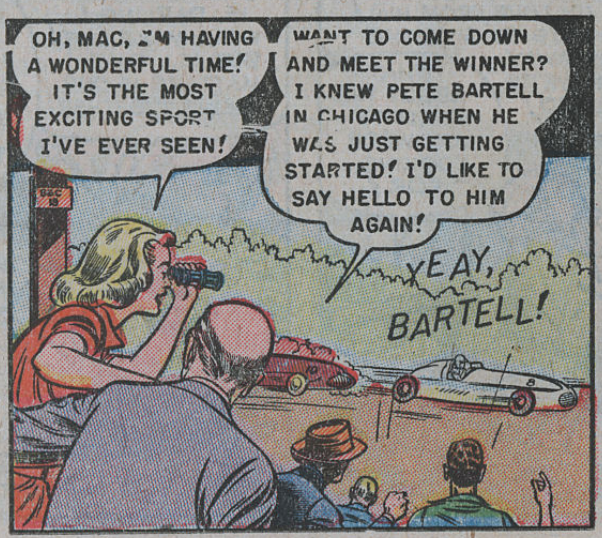




KISS of DANGER



It was only by accident that I went to the Greenville auto races! Mr. McRae, an old friend of my father's, invited me!



A thrill of excitement shot through me when Pete Bartell's rough, grease-stained hand touched mine! It was as if he had awakened me suddenly with his own electric energy!



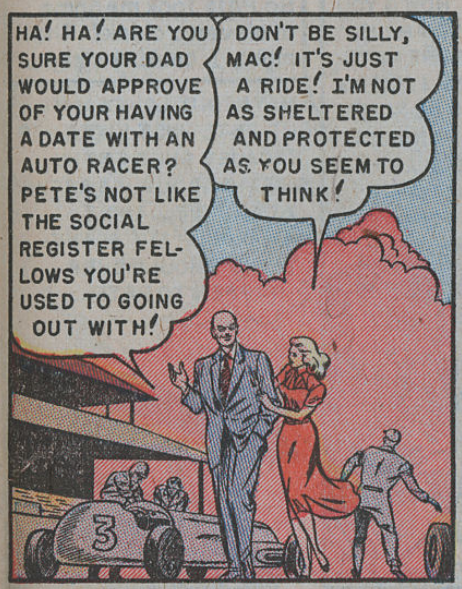
LAZARUS 77



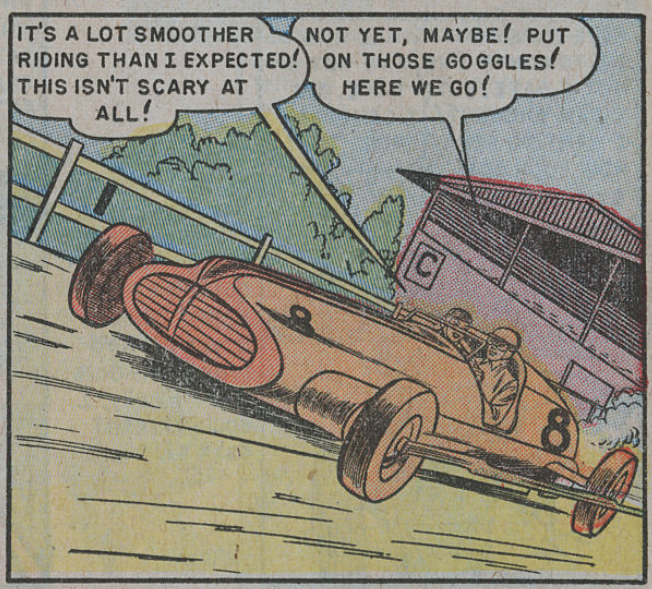


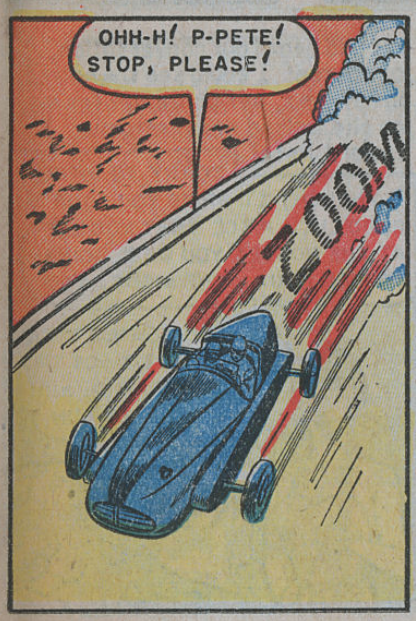
I could see Kit thought she had Pete tied up like a package, but Pete seemed to have other ideas! The interest in his eyes told me that I was something special to him! It didn't surprise me when Pete lingered and said...





But Mac was right! I'd never dared step out of my staid, unadventurous environment before! Pete wasn't like the other men I knew... and that was just what frightened and intrigued me! The next afternoon...

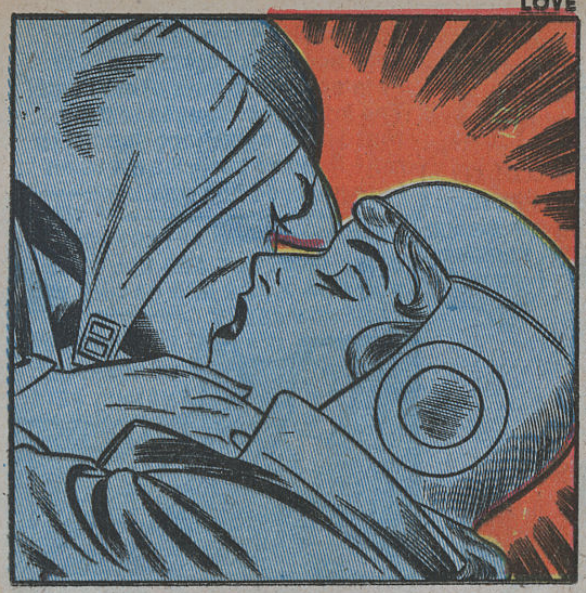






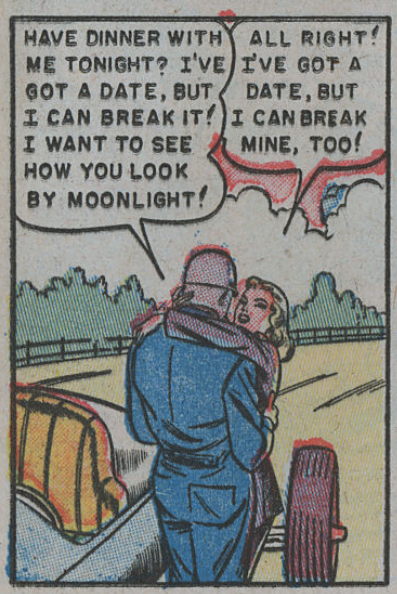
My shock was over, and Pete's imitation of my finishing school accent was too funny for me to keep a straight face! I laughed, and suddenly...





From that moment on, I was his... and it frightened me even more than his burst of speed had! Because I knew that his spirit was wild, as reckless with women who loved him as with his own life!





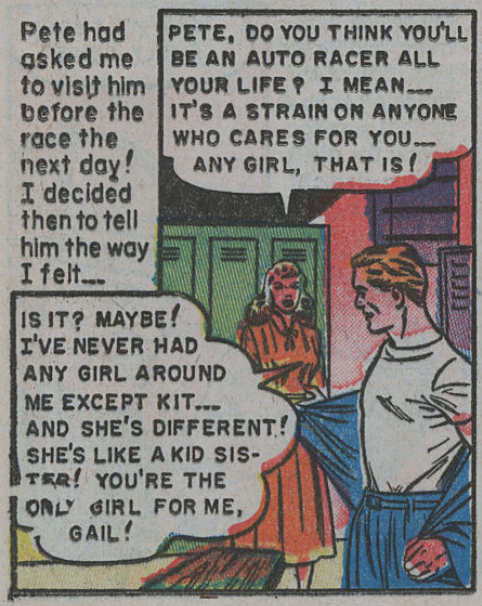
The evening in his arms was as heavenly as the afternoon... even though Pete forgot to kiss me again! I hoped it was Kit he'd broken the date with! Finally, I couldn't resist asking him...



So Pete took me home at eleven o'clock! That night, I couldn't sleep...



Pete had asked me to visit him before the race the next day! I decided then to tell him the way I felt...





Kit had heard our conversation, of course! I could see the hatred in her eyes, her contempt for me, as she walked possessively toward Pete!



I KNOW YOU'RE BETTER LOOKING THAN I AM! YOU'RE WHAT THEY CALL A "LADY"! MAYBE YOU CAN EVEN TAKE PETE AWAY FROM ME! BUT DON'T TRY TO MEDDLE IN HIS CAREER--UNDERSTAND?

MEDDLE--? I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!

Kit's bitterness took me competely by surprise! She was right, of course! I was trying to meddle--trying to stop Pete from racing! Suddenly, I felt like a coward, a weakling compared to Kit!

YES, YOU DO! YOU'D LIKE TO MAKE PETE SETTLE DOWN LIKE THE STUFFY CROWD YOU GO WITH! WELL, HE'S NOT LIKE THAT, SEE? HE NEVER WILL BE! SO LET HIM RACE!

YOU OVERESTIMATE ME, KIT! HASN'T PETE GOT A MIND OF HIS OWN? HE'S RACING THIS MINUTE, ISN'T HE? LET'S GO OUT AND WATCH HIM!

HOORAY PETE!

THE WINNAH--PETE BARTELL!

ZOOM

We were both there, Kit and I, to greet Pete at the finish line! What triumph I felt when Pete grinned at me, and swept me into his arms!

DID YOU SEE THAT SPEED I PUT ON JUST AT THE FINISH, BABY? THAT WAS FOR YOU!

OH, DARLING, I'M GLAD YOU'RE SAFE AGAIN!

ALL RIGHT, PETE! THIS IS THE FINISH LINE FOR ME, TOO!

AW, KIDDO--WHAT'S THE MATTER?

OH, NOTHING, OF COURSE!--EXCEPT I'M NOT GOING TO BE ON HAND ANY MORE! FROM NOW ON, LET GAIL DO YOUR CHEERING FOR YOU! GOOD-BYE!

DO YOU LOVE HER, PETE? IF YOU DO, GO AFTER HER!

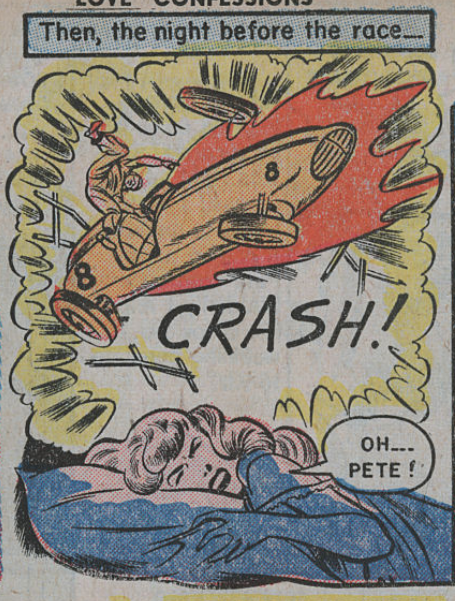
YOU KNOW I DON'T LOVE HER, GAIL! SHE'S JUST A DARN LUCKY PAL FOR ME, THAT'S ALL!--HOW ABOUT IT? ARE YOU GOING TO CHEER ME THROUGH THE HUDDLESTONE STEEPLECHASE NEXT SATURDAY?

The Huddlestone Steeplechase--one of the biggest events of the racing year! As Saturday drew near, I felt Pete's excitement building up! But something was building up in me, too...

PETE, I'VE GOT A FUNNY FEELING ABOUT THE HUDDLESTONE RACE! I--I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD ENTER IT!

WHAT? GOOD GRIEF, GAIL, WHAT DO YOU THINK I'VE BEEN WINNING ALL THESE RACES FOR? JUST SO I'D BE ELIGIBLE FOR IT! I'M ONE OF THE FAVORITES!

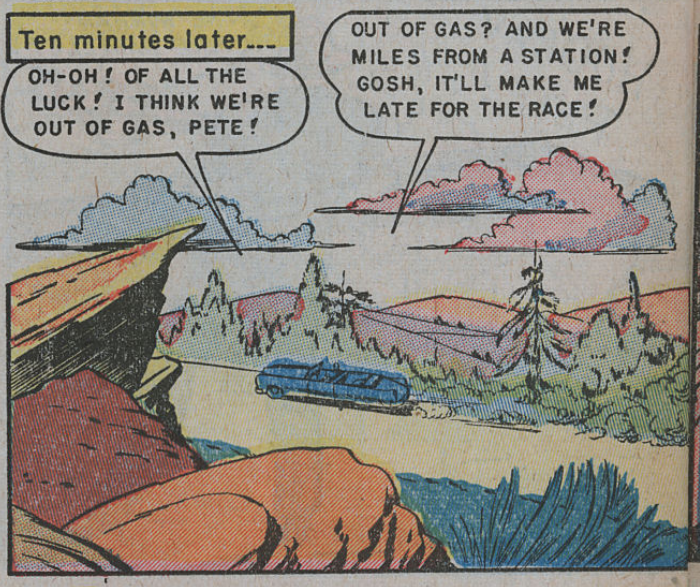






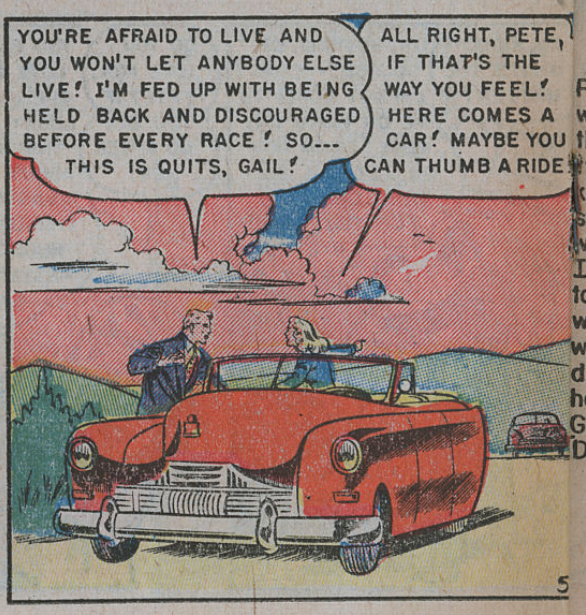
The next morning I was to drive Pete to the Huddlestone meet, 30 miles from town...



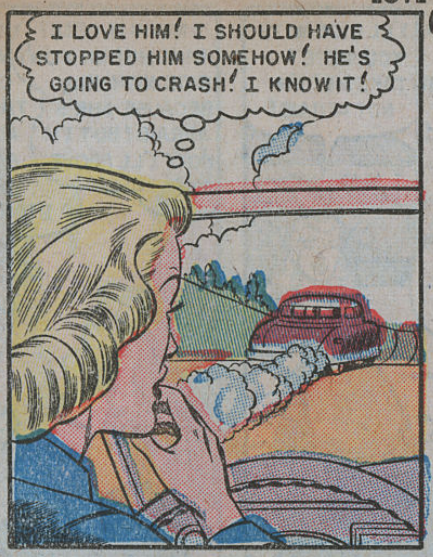


I'd let nearly all the gas out of the car before we started! That was just what I wanted... to make Pete late for the race! Then suddenly, a suspicion crossed his face and he burst out...

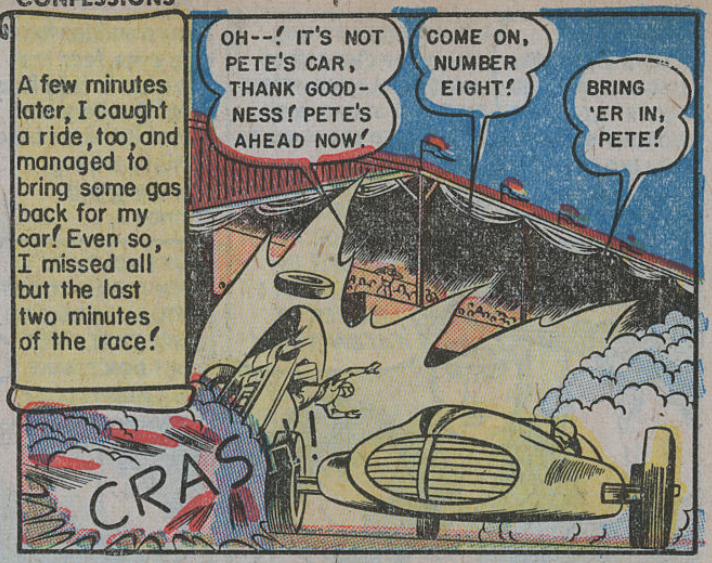




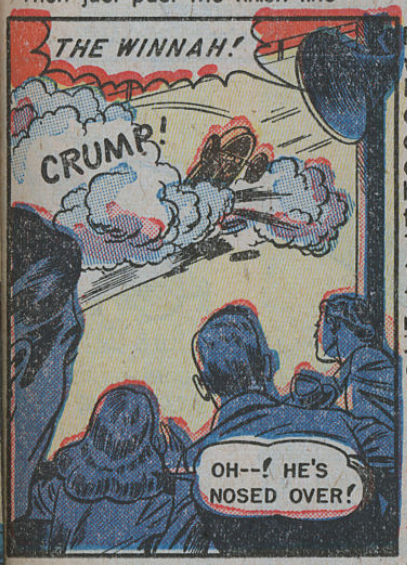
I refused a lift in the other car! When I saw Pete vanish in a cloud of dust, I felt sure I was seeing him for the last time--alive!



A few minutes later, I caught a ride, too, and managed to bring some gas back for my car! Even so, I missed all but the last two minutes of the race!



Then just past the finish line--

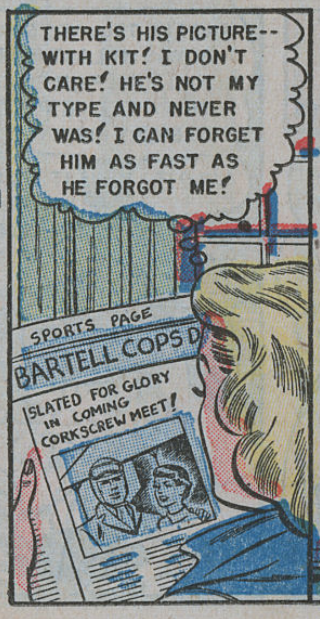


Pete was whisked away before I could catch a glimpse of him! I hurried to the hospital! The doctor told me had three broken ribs! When I was allowed to enter his room---





Pete's cruel words were the final twist of the knife that had stabbed me when he said I was afraid to live! That was two weeks to a day before he won the Georgia Derby...

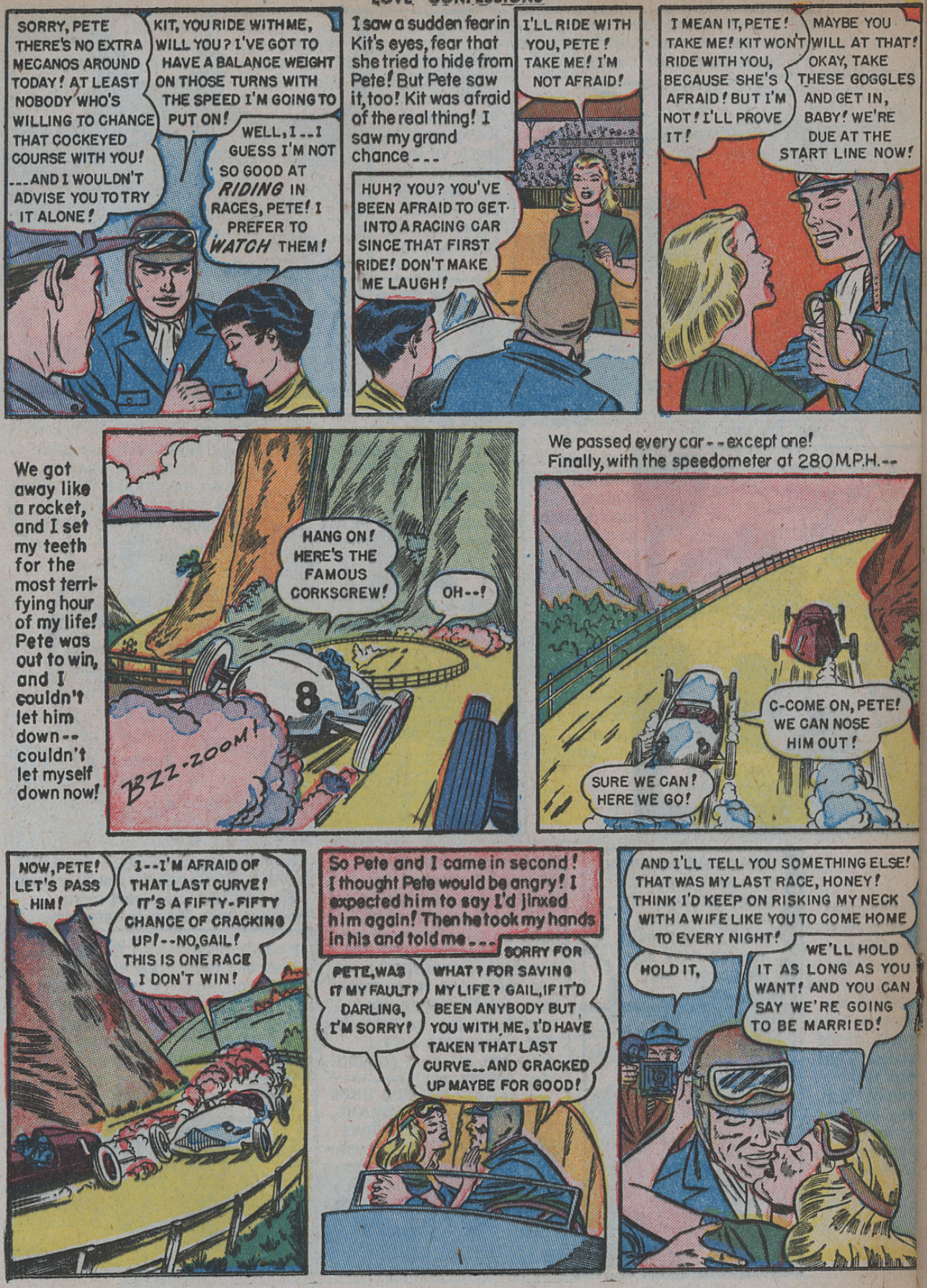


But I couldn't fool myself for long! I yearned for his kiss--his embrace--even for the touch of his hand on mine!



The following Saturday, I drove 100 miles to the Corkscrew Derby grounds! Pete was cool to me, and more nervous than I'd ever seen him...




SORRY, PETE THERE'S NO EXTRA MECANOS AROUND TODAY! AT LEAST NOBODY WHO'S WILLING TO CHANCE THAT COCKEYED COURSE WITH YOU!
---AND I WOULDN'T ADVISE YOU TO TRY IT ALONE!
KIT, YOU RIDE WITH ME, WILL YOU? I'VE GOT TO HAVE A BALANCE WEIGHT ON THOSE TURNS WITH THE SPEED I'M GOING TO PUT ON!
WELL, I--I GUESS I'M NOT SO GOOD AT RIDING IN RACES, PETE! I PREFER TO WATCH THEM!
I saw a sudden fear in Kit's eyes, fear that she tried to hide from Pete! But Pete saw it, too! Kit was afraid of the real thing! I saw my grand chance---
I'LL RIDE WITH YOU, PETE! TAKE ME! I'M NOT AFRAID!
HUH? YOU? YOU'VE BEEN AFRAID TO GET INTO A RACING CAR SINCE THAT FIRST RIDE! DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!
I MEAN IT, PETE! TAKE ME! KIT WON'T RIDE WITH YOU, BECAUSE SHE'S AFRAID! BUT I'M NOT! I'LL PROVE IT!
MAYBE YOU WILL AT THAT! OKAY, TAKE THESE GOGGLES AND GET IN, BABY! WE'RE DUE AT THE START LINE NOW!
We got away like a rocket, and I set my teeth for the most terrifying hour of my life! Pete was out to win, and I couldn't let him down--couldn't let myself down now!
HANG ON! HERE'S THE FAMOUS CORKSCREW!
OH--!
BZZ-ZOOM!
We passed every car--except one! Finally, with the speedometer at 280 M.P.H.--
C-COME ON, PETE! WE CAN NOSE HIM OUT!
SURE WE CAN! HERE WE GO!
NOW, PETE! LET'S PASS HIM!
I--I'M AFRAID OF THAT LAST CURVE! IT'S A FIFTY-FIFTY CHANCE OF CRACKING UP!--NO, GAIL! THIS IS ONE RACE I DON'T WIN!
So Pete and I came in second! I thought Pete would be angry! I expected him to say I'd jinxed him again! Then he took my hands in his and told me---
PETE, WAS IT MY FAULT? DARLING, I'M SORRY!
SORRY FOR WHAT? FOR SAVING MY LIFE? GAIL, IF IT'D BEEN ANYBODY BUT YOU WITH ME, I'D HAVE TAKEN THAT LAST CURVE--AND CRACKED UP MAYBE FOR GOOD!
AND I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING ELSE! THAT WAS MY LAST RACE, HONEY! THINK I'D KEEP ON RISKING MY NECK WITH A WIFE LIKE YOU TO COME HOME TO EVERY NIGHT!
HOLD IT,
WE'LL HOLD IT AS LONG AS YOU WANT! AND YOU CAN SAY WE'RE GOING TO BE MARRIED!



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Man On The Rebound

WHEN I started dating Ken Walker, he was known as a man on the rebound. Everyone in town said that his fiancee, the beautiful model, Irene Dorn, had broken off with him and that he was carrying a torch for her. I didn't care what people had to say, I'd been in love with Ken Walker since we'd met at a high school dance years ago and at first, just the chance to be with him was all I desired.

As we saw more and more of each other, however, I began to resent the snide remarks that some of my acquaintances made about me, Cathy Miller, stenographer, trying to take the place of the glamorous Irene Dorn. By that time, I was starting to hope that Ken might be just a little bit in love with me. We had wonderful times together, jaunts into the country for picnics, football games where we shouted for our favorite teams, and then the wonderful evenings of tenderness; which, for me, were filled with the promise of what was to come.

It was during one of these evenings when Ken and I were lounging in front of a roaring fire at my home, with the snow falling heavily outside the windows and the atmosphere perfect for a proposal, that Ken made my dream come true. He drew me close, burying his face in my hair for a moment before he spoke, "I love you, Cathy, darling," he murmured, "I want you to be my wife." And then, before I could answer, he went on in a rush of words about the wonderful future we would share, and how very much he loved me. "I only hope I'm worthy of you, dearest, and that you'll say 'yes' to an early marriage." I stammered out a brief, "Of course I'll marry you, Ken." The thrilling excitement of the moment was almost more than I could bear. "I—I've waited so long to hear you say it," But even as I spoke, a chill seemed to sweep over me when I thought of Irene Dorn. How could I ever hope to replace that beautiful creature? I was tempted to say something about it, for much as I loved Ken and yearned for him, I found it difficult to believe that he could want just plain me after being engaged to a famous model. However, the evening passed in such perfect bliss that I couldn't inject an unhappy note into it. I carried my ugly thoughts to sleep with me that night and for many nights to follow.

The newspaper published the news of our engagement and with the announcement, came the usual flood of good wishes from friends and relatives. Then one day I was downtown shopping for my trousseau. And as I stood in a dressing room, waiting to be fitted, I overheard part of a conversation in the next booth. "And I saw Ken Walker having lunch with Irene Dorn just today," said the voice. "That hardly sounds like he's serious about this engagement to Cathy Miller. She's a sweet girl, but . . ." I didn't wait to hear more, I flew into my clothes and left the shop hastily. I met Ken at his office that night and confronted him with what I had heard as we drove home together. "I know you took Irene Dorn to lunch," I cried harshly. "And I'll bet that's not the only time either. It serves me right for expecting you to love me after going with the most beautiful girl in town." All the bitterness that had been crowding into my mind for countless sleepless nights poured out in my words as I shook with fury.

At first Ken seemed astounded and I mistook it for confusion at being found out so I heaped more accusations on him until, as we approached home, I was on the verge of hysteria and had dissolved in tears. Ken stopped the car and moved over to take me in his arms. I resisted, but he was insistent and his arms were so comforting. "I'm glad you spilled it all out, Cathy," he said softly. "If you've been feeling this way, it's a good thing to get rid of it now, before we marry." "Marry!" I said incredulously. "After all this —" He interrupted me and went on to say that in spite of what the town gossips believed, it was he who terminated the engagement between Irene and himself when he realized that he had never really loved the flighty, vain girl. And that he hadn't taken her to lunch, she had strolled into the restaurant after he had started eating and had simply joined him for a cup of coffee.

"You're the only one I've ever really loved, Cathy," he murmured, as his lips met mine. And I knew at last, what a fool I'd been to let suspicion creep into our perfect love.

I KNEW BY HEART THE MYSTERIOUS REALM OF PAINS AND MALADIES, AND MANY WERE THE MEDICAL ANSWERS I COULD GIVE TO THE QUESTIONS OF DISEASES, YET... DESPITE MY KNOWLEDGE, WHEN MY OWN HEART LAY BROKEN AND BLEEDING ... I COULD FIND

NO CURE FOR Disillusion

LOVE? IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE TO OFFER VIC? YOU LITTLE FOOL! DO YOU THINK HE'LL BE SATISFIED WITH THAT, WHEN I CAN GIVE HIM WEALTH, POSITION... EVERYTHING THAT *REALLY* MATTERS?

As Dr. Vail Thompson, hospital resident, I was doing the work of my dreams... with my dream man, Dr. Vic Campbell!

GOOD MORNING, DOCTOR! DON'T SMILE AT ME THAT WAY IF YOU WANT MY BLOOD PRESSURE TO STAY NORMAL! WHAT'S ON FOR TODAY?

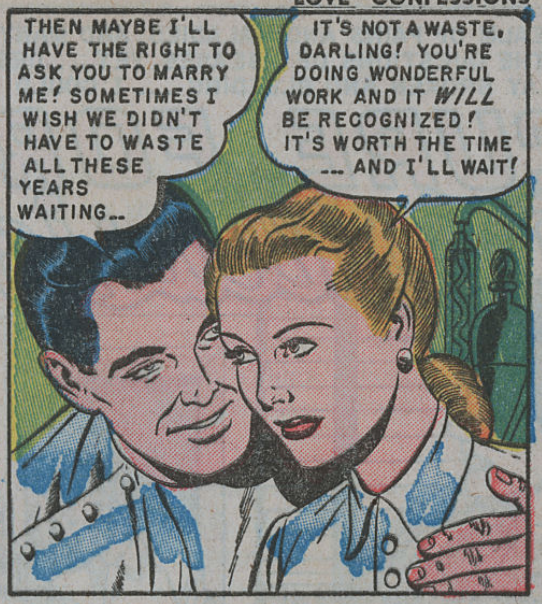
WORK AND MORE WORK! BUT I WON'T BE ABLE TO DO IT UNLESS YOU LET GO OF MY HANDS!

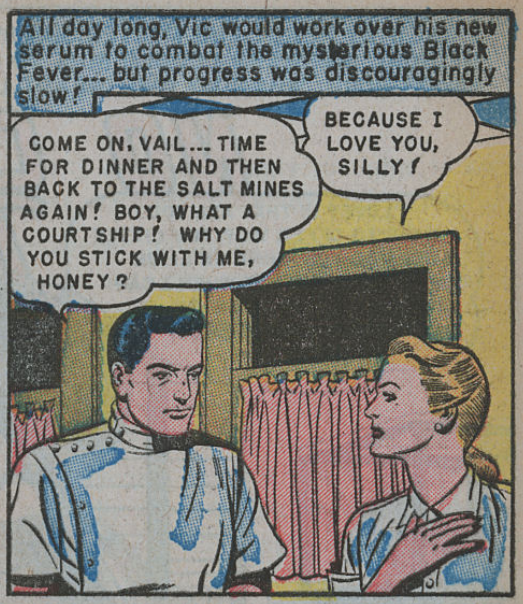
Vic and I both worked as residents in the research laboratory at Central Hospital, but it was really Vic who had the brilliant future...and I was pulling for him with all my heart!

HOW'S THE NEW SERUM COMING ALONG, VIC? DO YOU HAVE IT PERFECTED YET?

NOT QUITE, VAIL! BUT WITH A LITTLE MORE TIME, I THINK I'LL HAVE THE ANSWER!







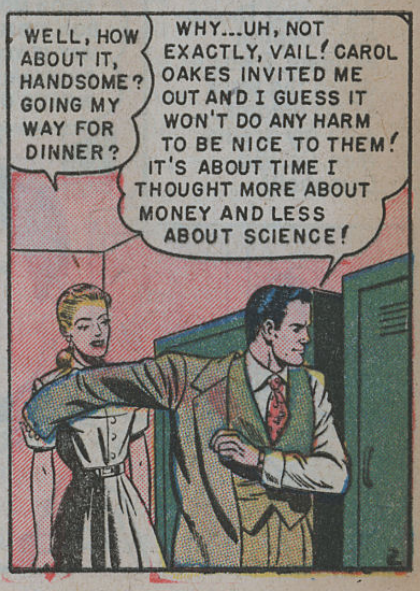








A nameless doubt filled my heart as I looked at beautiful Carol Oakes... a doubt that was to blossom into fact the very next day!



I wanted Mr. Oakes to support Vic's research efforts, but I couldn't believe that Carol's sudden interest was for the benefit of medical progress!





Slowly, I could see Vic's interest in his work waning...and helplessly, I watched while Carol Oakes tempted him with glimpses of a life of luxury!



The glowing embers of passion that Vic had fanned with his thrilling love began to grow dim...and with tears in my heart, I stood by while Carol Oakes lured him away!



So time went on, and I could see a struggle going on within Vic...even our moments alone were not the same anymore!





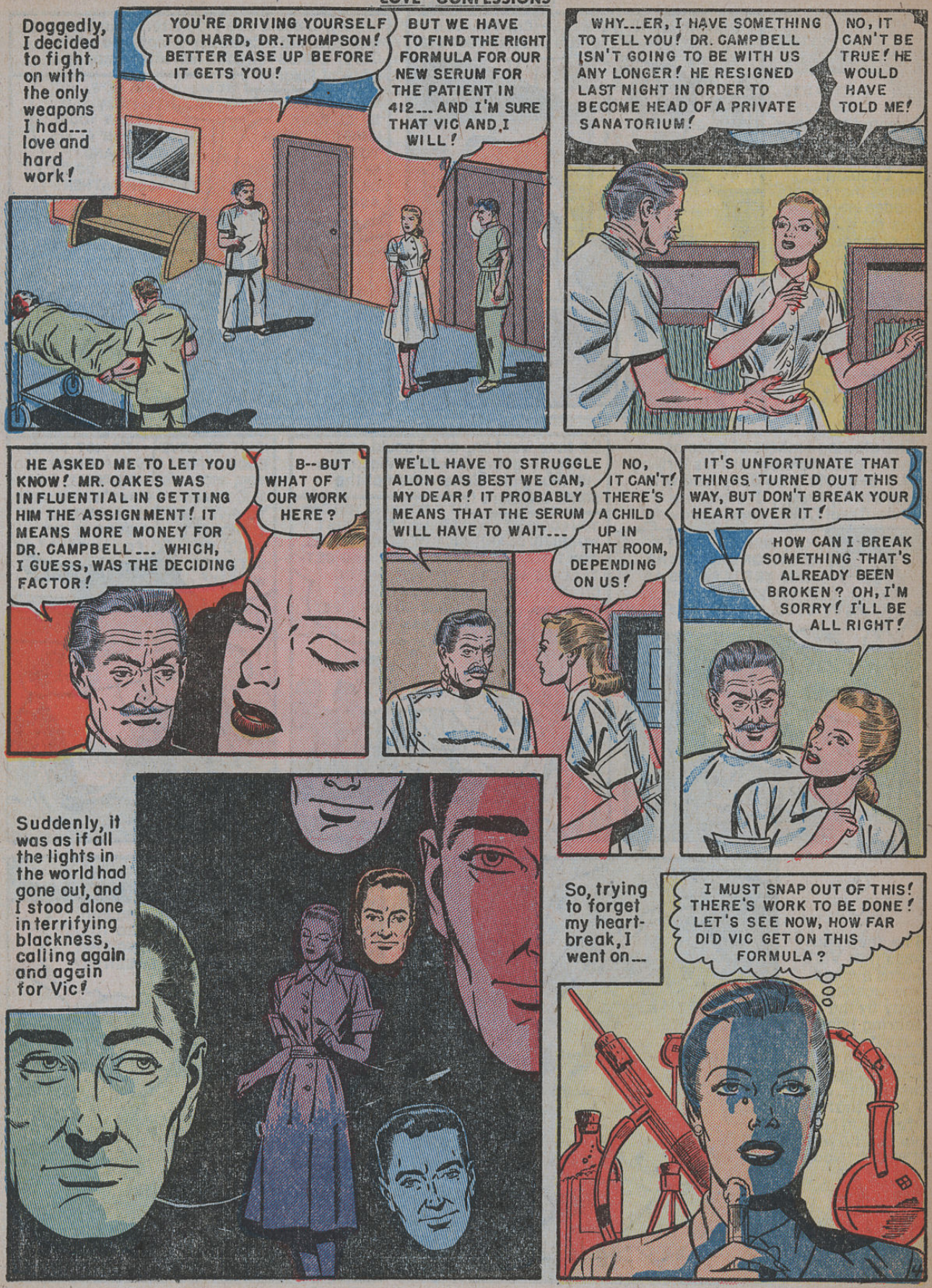
The deep sadness that Vic's words evoked was washed away by the searing tide of passion that enveloped me when his lips met mine...and I knew that my life was in his hands...do with it what he would!

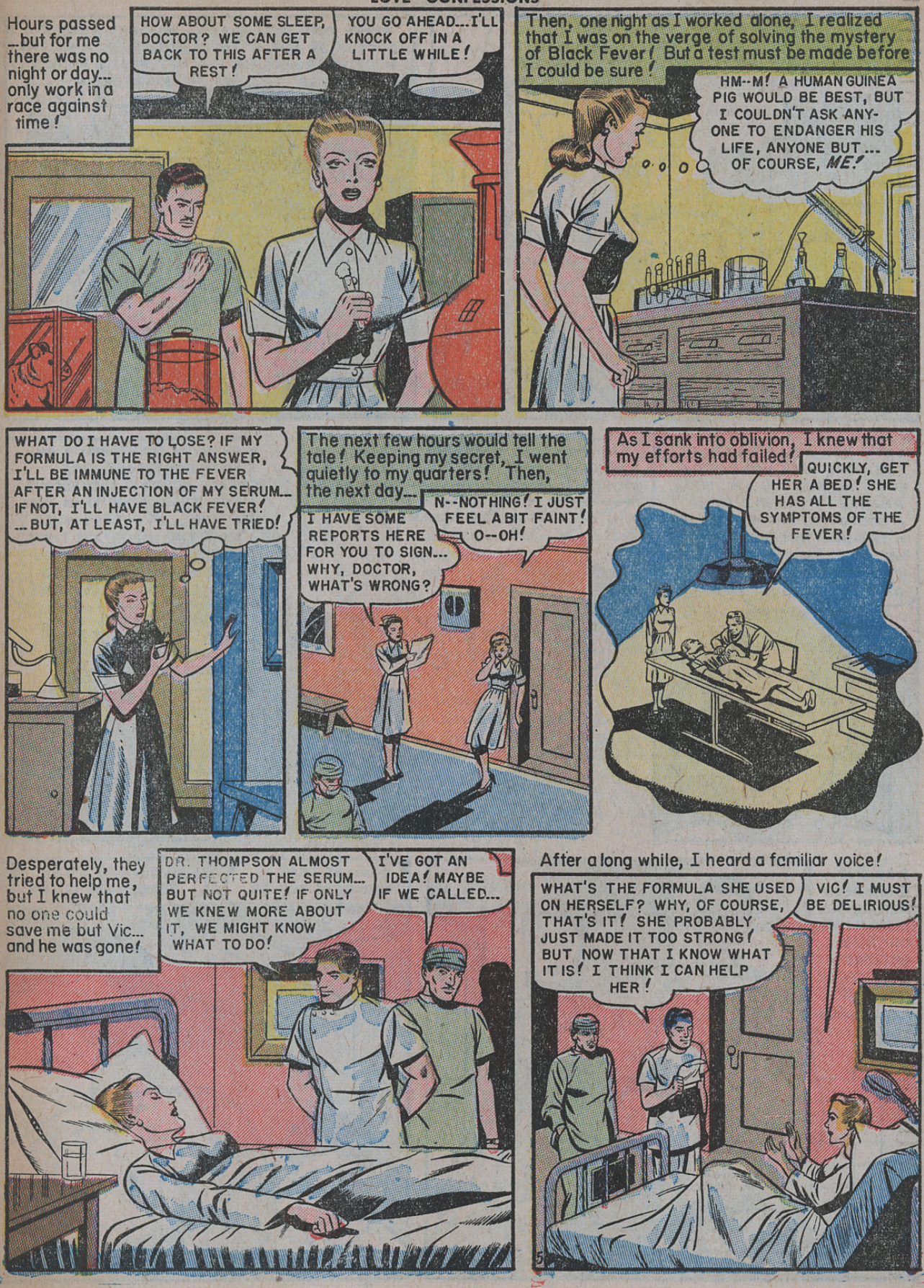


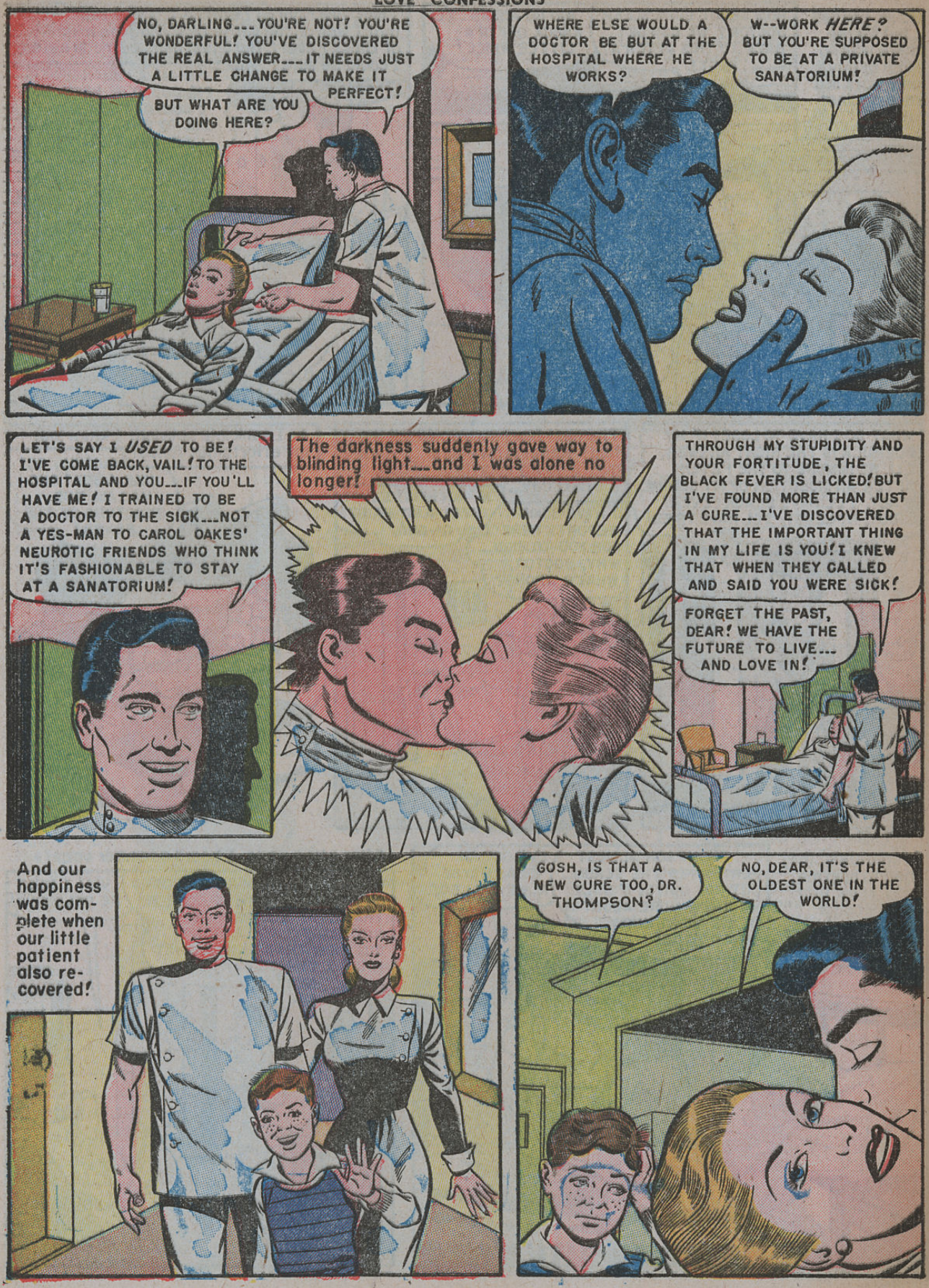


That night I lay awake...knowing that Vic was doing the same...unable to help him, or stop myself from loving him!




Doggedly, I decided to fight on with the only weapons I had--- love and hard work!
YOU'RE DRIVING YOURSELF TOO HARD, DR. THOMPSON! BETTER EASE UP BEFORE IT GETS YOU!
BUT WE HAVE TO FIND THE RIGHT FORMULA FOR OUR NEW SERUM FOR THE PATIENT IN 412--- AND I'M SURE THAT VIC AND I WILL!
WHY---ER, I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU! DR. CAMPBELL ISN'T GOING TO BE WITH US ANY LONGER! HE RESIGNED LAST NIGHT IN ORDER TO BECOME HEAD OF A PRIVATE SANATORIUM!
NO, IT CAN'T BE TRUE! HE WOULD HAVE TOLD ME!
HE ASKED ME TO LET YOU KNOW! MR. OAKES WAS INFLUENTIAL IN GETTING HIM THE ASSIGNMENT! IT MEANS MORE MONEY FOR DR. CAMPBELL--- WHICH, I GUESS, WAS THE DECIDING FACTOR!
B--BUT WHAT OF OUR WORK HERE?
WE'LL HAVE TO STRUGGLE ALONG AS BEST WE CAN, MY DEAR! IT PROBABLY MEANS THAT THE SERUM WILL HAVE TO WAIT---
NO, IT CAN'T! THERE'S A CHILD UP IN THAT ROOM, DEPENDING ON US!
IT'S UNFORTUNATE THAT THINGS TURNED OUT THIS WAY, BUT DON'T BREAK YOUR HEART OVER IT!
HOW CAN I BREAK SOMETHING THAT'S ALREADY BEEN BROKEN? OH, I'M SORRY! I'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
Suddenly, it was as if all the lights in the world had gone out, and I stood alone in terrifying blackness, calling again and again for Vic!
So, trying to forget my heart-break, I went on---
I MUST SNAP OUT OF THIS! THERE'S WORK TO BE DONE! LET'S SEE NOW, HOW FAR DID VIC GET ON THIS FORMULA?


Hours passed ...but for me there was no night or day... only work in a race against time!
HOW ABOUT SOME SLEEP, DOCTOR? WE CAN GET BACK TO THIS AFTER A REST!
YOU GO AHEAD...I'LL KNOCK OFF IN A LITTLE WHILE!
Then, one night as I worked alone, I realized that I was on the verge of solving the mystery of Black Fever! But a test must be made before I could be sure!
HM--M! A HUMAN GUINEA PIG WOULD BE BEST, BUT I COULDN'T ASK ANY-ONE TO ENDANGER HIS LIFE, ANYONE BUT... OF COURSE, ME!
WHAT DO I HAVE TO LOSE? IF MY FORMULA IS THE RIGHT ANSWER, I'LL BE IMMUNE TO THE FEVER AFTER AN INJECTION OF MY SERUM... IF NOT, I'LL HAVE BLACK FEVER! ...BUT, AT LEAST, I'LL HAVE TRIED!
The next few hours would tell the tale! Keeping my secret, I went quietly to my quarters! Then, the next day...
I HAVE SOME REPORTS HERE FOR YOU TO SIGN... WHY, DOCTOR, WHAT'S WRONG?
N--NOTHING! I JUST FEEL A BIT FAINT! O--OH!
As I sank into oblivion, I knew that my efforts had failed!
QUICKLY, GET HER A BED! SHE HAS ALL THE SYMPTOMS OF THE FEVER!
Desperately, they tried to help me, but I knew that no one could save me but Vic... and he was gone!
DR. THOMPSON ALMOST PERFECTED THE SERUM... BUT NOT QUITE! IF ONLY WE KNEW MORE ABOUT IT, WE MIGHT KNOW WHAT TO DO!
I'VE GOT AN IDEA! MAYBE IF WE CALLED...
After a long while, I heard a familiar voice!
WHAT'S THE FORMULA SHE USED ON HERSELF? WHY, OF COURSE, THAT'S IT! SHE PROBABLY JUST MADE IT TOO STRONG! BUT NOW THAT I KNOW WHAT IT IS! I THINK I CAN HELP HER!
VIC! I MUST BE DELIRIOUS!
5


NO, DARLING...YOU'RE NOT! YOU'RE WONDERFUL! YOU'VE DISCOVERED THE REAL ANSWER...IT NEEDS JUST A LITTLE CHANGE TO MAKE IT PERFECT!
BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WHERE ELSE WOULD A DOCTOR BE BUT AT THE HOSPITAL WHERE HE WORKS?
W--WORK HERE? BUT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE AT A PRIVATE SANATORIUM!
LET'S SAY I USED TO BE! I'VE COME BACK, VAIL! TO THE HOSPITAL AND YOU...IF YOU'LL HAVE ME! I TRAINED TO BE A DOCTOR TO THE SICK...NOT A YES-MAN TO CAROL OAKES' NEUROTIC FRIENDS WHO THINK IT'S FASHIONABLE TO STAY AT A SANATORIUM!
The darkness suddenly gave way to blinding light...and I was alone no longer!
THROUGH MY STUPIDITY AND YOUR FORTITUDE, THE BLACK FEVER IS LICKED! BUT I'VE FOUND MORE THAN JUST A CURE...I'VE DISCOVERED THAT THE IMPORTANT THING IN MY LIFE IS YOU! I KNEW THAT WHEN THEY CALLED AND SAID YOU WERE SICK!
FORGET THE PAST, DEAR! WE HAVE THE FUTURE TO LIVE... AND LOVE IN!
And our happiness was complete when our little patient also recovered!
GOSH, IS THAT A NEW CURE TOO, DR. THOMPSON?
NO, DEAR, IT'S THE OLDEST ONE IN THE WORLD!

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Fill out description below. Mark back of pictures 1, 2 and 3.

Color Picture No. 1
Hair_____
Eyes_____
Clothing_____

Color Picture No. 2
Hair_____
Eyes_____
Clothing_____

Color Picture No. 3
Hair_____
Eyes_____
Clothing_____

SEND NO MONEY!—Mail Coupon Today!

HOLLYWOOD FILM STUDIOS, Dept.C-131
7021 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood 38, Cal.

Enclosed find_____Snapshots or Negatives (specify number, limit 3)

Please make_____ ☐ 5x7 ☐ 8x10 Enlargements and Frames (specify number, limit 3)

CHECK COLOR OF FRAMES

☐ Ivory and Gold ☐ Brown and Gold

I will pay postman for each enlargement and frame plus mailing costs on your 10 day money-back offer.

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____(___) Zone STATE_____

Fill out description below. Mark back of pictures 1, 2 and 3.

Color Picture No. 1
Hair_____
Eyes_____
Clothing_____

Color Picture No. 2
Hair_____
Eyes_____
Clothing_____

Color Picture No. 3
Hair_____
Eyes_____
Clothing_____

An Amazing NEW PLAN! Make Friends...Make Money..!



GET THESE DRESSES— *Don't Pay a Penny!*

and Make Fine Extra Money Even in Your Spare Time

WOMEN LIKE YOU!
(Read these Exceptional Records)

2 Hours Pays $10.00
My first experience netted me $10.00 in about 2 hours. It was fun, and I made new friends, *Mrs. S. W COLE, West Virginia*

Made $30 in Week Spare Time
Imagine! Inside less than a week I made $30.00 cash putting in only spare time, as I am a housewife. *LOUISE ZULA, Wisconsin.*

Hasn't Bought Dresses in 1½ Years
I work only part time and only among friends, and I haven't bought a dress or suit since starting a year and a half ago! *ELAINE SCHECTER, Indiana*

You've never read more exciting news! Think of seeing more than 100 beautiful latest-style dresses—and you can take your pick in YOUR OWN favorite fabric, style, color and size WITHOUT PAYING EVEN ONE CENT, on this brand new introductory plan! And all you do now is mail the coupon at the bottom of this page! You'll receive ABSOLUTELY FREE the most thrilling display of gorgeous styles you ever saw—all the latest models, the newest colors, all the popular fabrics—separates, mix-and-match, convertibles, casuals—suits, sportswear, and hosiery and lingerie too! You select the dresses you want and they're YOURS, simply for showing the beautiful styles and sending just a few orders for friends, neighbors, or members of your family. That's all! You don't pay one cent for your own dresses—and you can get dress after dress for yourself this easy way!

You'll Fall in Love with This Way to Make Extra Money!

The moment folks see the beautiful styles, the vast selection, and the LOW, MONEY-SAVING PRICES, they want you to send to famous Harford Frocks for dresses just like them. And for sending us their selections you get your own dresses *without paying a single penny*—and you can actually make several dollars *in one hour* of spare time besides! Don't wait! We'll send you everything you need . . .

FREE! JUST MAIL COUPON BELOW!

Send no money! Just write your name, address, and dress size on coupon below (paste it on a postcard) and mail it, and we'll send you the big valuable style display so you can start at once getting your personal dresses without one cent of cost and collecting EXTRA CASH besides. Mail the coupon NOW!

HARFORD FROCKS, Inc.
Dept. J-1140, Cincinnati 25, Ohio

PASTE ON POSTCARD — AND MAIL!

Harford Frocks, Inc., Dept. J-1140, Cincinnati 25, Ohio

RUSH ABSOLUTELY FREE the big, valuable Harford Frocks Style Display so I can start quickly getting personal dresses without paying one penny for them, and make extra money in spare time besides.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Dress Size _____ Age _____

REDUCE *Your Appearance!*

NEW! Magic Panel Feature Slims Like Magic! Look Slimmer, More Youthful



You will feel like this beautiful model in your new and improved cool, lightweight FIGURE-ADJUSTER.

WHY DIET? TRY IT!

TAKES INCHES OFF TUMMY!

RAISES ABDOMEN AND KEEPS IT IN!

LIKE MAGIC IT BRINGS IN WAIST

MAKES SPREADING HIPLINES CONFORM TO FIRM BEAUTY

SMOOTHS AND SLIMS THIGHS

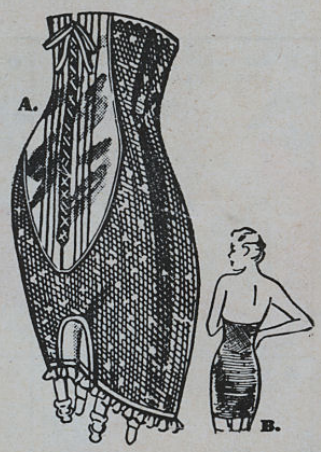
MAKES YOUR CLOTHES FIT BEAUTIFULLY

THE FIGURE-ADJUSTER MUST BE THE BEST GIRDLE YOU EVER WORE . . . YOU MUST FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE, and you MUST look and feel younger . . . Your shape MUST be noticeably improved or you get every cent back at once!

No matter how many other girdles you have tried, WE BELIEVE NO OTHER GIRDLE CAN DO FOR YOU MORE THAN THE FIGURE-ADJUSTER! No other girdle or supporter-belt offers you more TUMMY CONTROL, BULGE control, HOLD-IN and STAY-UP power . . . safely, scientifically. No other girdle can begin to approach the miracle-working FIGURE-ADJUSTER feature! Figure-Adjuster is LIGHT in weight (ideal for ALL weather) yet powerfully strong! Figure-Adjuster allows AIR to circulate through it, ABSORBS perspiration, is made by the most skilled craftsmen, and allows you to ADJUST it to just the right amount of BULGE-CONTROL you like and NEED for an IMPROVED FIGURE!

MAGIC PANEL CONTROL: No laces show when you wear a SLIMMING Figure-Adjuster. The control you get is completely COMFORTABLE . . . and GUARANTEES healthful, lasting support. Its satin TUMMY PANEL laces right up to meet the bra—NO MIDRIFF BULGE! LIFTS and FLATTENS the tummy, SLIMS down the waist, TRIMS the hips and eliminates the "SPARE TIRE" waistline roll! The magic ADJUSTABLE, slimming, easily controlled panel is scientifically designed and is the result of testing different kinds of panels on thousands of women! Figure-Adjuster creates the "BALANCED PRESSURE" that gives each bulge the *exact* amount of RESTRAINT it requires. It gives you the right amount of SUPPORT where YOU need it MOST! Let Figure-Adjuster give you MORE figure control . . . for more of your figure . . . let it give you a more BEAUTIFUL FIGURE . . . the slimmer, trimmer figure that INVITES romance. You ACTUALLY APPEAR SLIMMER AT ONCE WITH THE MAGIC PANEL control of Figure-Adjuster. Colors nude, blue or white. Panty or regular. Sizes 24 inch waist to 48, only $4.98.

MAKE THIS TEST WITH YOUR OWN HANDS! Clasp your hands over your ABDOMEN, press upwards and in gently but FIRMLY. You feel better, don't you! That's just what the UP-LIFT adjustable FIGURE-ADJUSTER does for you, only the FIGURE-ADJUSTER does it better. MAIL COUPON AND TEST IT AT HOME FOR 10 days TRIAL *at our expense!* NO OTHER GIRDLE AT ANY PRICE CAN GIVE YOU BETTER SUPPORT, *can make you look better, feel better or appear slimmer and younger!* Sizes 24 to 48 waist.



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TRIM UNWANTED INCHES OFF YOUR MIDRIFF, waist and hips with real breathe-easy comfort. New scientific construction whittles away rolls and bulges . . . slimming, easy-to-adjust rayon satin tummy panel laces right up to your bra. In powerful elastic. White, light blue or nude. Small (25"-26"), Medium (27"-28"), Large (29"-30"), Extra Large (31"-32"). Also "PLUS" SIZES for the fuller figure, XX (33"-35"), XXX (36"-38"), XXXX (39"-40"), XXXXX (41"-44"), XXXXXX (46"-48").

100% MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE!

Test the Figure-Adjuster at home for ten days' TRIAL at our expense! It's sent on approval! It must do all we claim for it or return it after ten days and we'll send your money right back. We take all the risk . . . that's because we know that even though you may have tried many others you haven't tried the BEST until you have tried a FIGURE-ADJUSTER! MAIL COUPON NOW!

Guaranteed to Delight or Your Money Back . . . 10-DAY FREE TRIAL!

GIFT!

"SECRETS OF LOVELINESS" booklet tells how to take advantage of correct choice of clothes, proper use of make-up and other secrets to help you look years younger, pounds and inches slimmer, will be included with your order.

For Your Figure's Sake MAIL THIS COUPON NOW!

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FIGURE-ADJUSTER CO., DEPT. 635
318 Market St., Newark, New Jersey

Yes! Please rush "FIGURE-ADJUSTER" on approval. If not delighted I may return girdle within 10 days.

☐ I will pay postman $4.98 plus postage.

☐ I enclose $5.00, cash, check or money order, send postage prepaid. (I save up to 75c postage.)

Color _____ 2nd color choice _____

Size _____ Panty Girdle _____ Girdle _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

Please PRINT carefully. BE SURE TO GIVE YOUR SIZE

Picture Appears On Paper For You To Trace!

DRAW instantly

NO EXPERIENCE!
NO TALENT!
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NOW you can easily draw people, animals, or still life, or maps like an artist even if you have never drawn a straight line before.

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I understand I can return this merchandise after a 10 day trial and my money will be refunded.

☐ I enclose $2.98 send Deluxe Model.

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City.....Zone.....State.....

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